



Franklin/Grand Isle County News

September 2009

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program Changes

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different and are based on the rate which CCC borrows from the Treasury Department.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

DCP - Succession in Interest

If you have made changes that affect your interest in base acres since you signed your last Direct and Counter-cyclical Program contract, you must report these *successions-in-interest* to the county FSA office by **Sept. 30**, so a final determination can be made by the County Committee on who is eligible for the program on the farm.

Changes that qualify as a succession-in-interest include:

- A sale of land
- A change of operator or producer, including an increase or decrease in the number of partners
- A foreclosure, bankruptcy or involuntary loss of the farm.
- A change in producer shares to reflect changes in the producer's share of the crop(s) that were originally approved on the contract.

If a succession-in-interest has taken place, you, as the "predecessor," are required to refund any advance DCP payments you received for the affected base acres before a payment can be made to the "successor."

Not reporting a succession-in-interest can result in contract termination and a loss of program benefits for all producers involved.

Newsletters on the Web

The state office of FSA is now archiving county newsletters. They are posted on the FSA Vermont internet page: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/stateoffapp?mystate=vt&area=home&subject=nele&topic=landing>. The last two issues for Franklin/Grand Isle (June and August) should be there.

Hay Quality

Due to extreme wet conditions this summer, the quality of hay has been adversely affected. If you purchased hay insurance from FSA under the NAP program be sure to have your hay tested for quality and measured for quantity by your crop consultant in case a crop disaster program becomes available at a future date. Test results and tonnage certification are requirements of FSA's crop disaster programs.

Note: The new fiscal year for MILC is from Oct. 1, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2010

Franklin-Grand Isle County

FSA

27 Fisher Pond Rd.,
Suite 2
St. Albans, VT 05478

Phone: (802) 527-1296

(800) 717-8637

Fax: (802) 524-4575

www.fsa.usda.gov

Hours

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Farm Service Agency County Committee

Maurice Fortin, Chairperson
Madonne Rainville, Vice Chairperson
Dwight Bullis, Member
Andrew Brouillette, Member
Diane McGarry, Member

NOTE: COC meets 3rd

Thursday each month at 11:00 A.M.

County Executive Director

Brenda Ladue (ext. 106)

Staff

Carolyn Church, P.T. (ext.109)

Tracy Derry, P.T. (ext. 124)

Luc Dupuis, P.T. (ext. 105)

George Godin, P.T. (ext. 107)

Marguerite Noel, P.T. (ext. 100)

Dorothy Perkins, P.T. (ext. 113)

Loan Manager

Dirk Reith (ext. 110)

Loan Officers

Brad Parker (ext. 112)

Liz Vesosky (ext. 111)

Natural Resources

Conservation Service

Angela L. Biggs, D.C. (ext.118)

Joanne Yousten, S.C. (ext. 115)

Sarah Larose, S.C. (ext. 127)

Diane Ladue, C.T. (ext. 121)

Roslyn Odum, Ag. Eng. (ext.

128)

Ann Lansberry, C. E.T. (116)

Natural Resources

Conservation District

Renaë Masse, Manager (ext.

119)

Agricultural Land Treatment &

Conservation Planners:

Carla Fenner (ext.117)

Trevor Lewis (ext.120)

Mark Marsh (ext. 126)

Vermont Agency of Ag. Staff

Ben Gabos, CREP Planner,

(ext. 122)

Greg Bouchard, Civil Engineer,

(ext. 114)

Dates to Remember

MILC Extended Ph.

Sept. 30, 2012

DCP Succession in Interest

September 30, 2009

Columbus Day – Office

closed Oct. 12, 2009

NAP Forage Crops Coverage

Nov. 20, 2009

Franklin-Grand Isle County FSA
27 Fisher Pond Rd. Suite 2
St. Albans, VT 05478



September 2009

Presorted Standard
U S Postage
USDA-FSA
Permit # 5100

Change Service Requested

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NAP Coverage

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agricultural commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

The application deadline date for the 2010 NAP coverage for Forage Crops is Nov. 20, 2009.

Producers who already have coverage on 2009 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2010, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

Producers who choose to add a new crop(s) or delete a crop(s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signatures and pay the applicable service fee.

Producers with NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, bale weights or other means of determining quantities of hay are required.
- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, hail, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office.

Continuous CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program is a private lands environmental improvement program that allows participants the opportunity to enroll environmentally sensitive acreages in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat and food sources.

The Continuous CRP program is a voluntary enrollment program. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for practice establishment.

To be eligible for enrollment in the Continuous CRP, participants and acreage must meet certain requirements. Provided the eligibility requirements are met, FSA will automatically accept enrollments of acreage into Continuous CRP. Landowners may enroll in the program at any time during the year.

For more information on Continuous CRP enrollments, please contact your local FSA office.

Biomass Crop Assistance Program

FSA is currently accepting applications from biomass facilities interested in participating in the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP).

Once an agreement is signed between FSA and a facility and funding through the program is provided, the facilities can begin accepting materials. Producers who sell these materials can apply for matching payments under the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) component of BCAP.

The matching CHST payments are paid at a rate of \$1 for \$1 per dry-ton equivalent received from a qualified biomass conversion facility, not to exceed \$45 per dry-ton equivalent. A biomass owner is eligible to receive payments for two years. The purpose of the matching payments is to assist biomass producers with the CHST cost of delivering biomass to a qualified biomass conversion facility. Once a facility becomes qualified, eligible material owners or producers who deliver biomass to that facility may be eligible to receive CHST payments.

Eligible material owners or producers, who market eligible material to a qualified biomass conversion facility, may apply for the matching CHST payment at their FSA county office. An application must be submitted before the eligible material is sold and delivered to a qualified biomass conversion facility. After the product is delivered, a producer must provide FSA with documentation of product quantity, quality and payment rate. County offices will validate payment requests with information in the county office and information provided under the terms of MOUs with the qualified biomass conversion facilities. CHST payments will not be authorized until after an appropriate environmental analysis has been conducted.

Biomass conversion facilities and material owners or producers should contact their FSA state offices or visit www.fsa.usda.gov for more information

